

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 /072 W  
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R 021434Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9039  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0807

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO  
SUBJ: NABLUS MAYOR'S REACTION TO BEGIN'S VICTORY AND  
CARTER'S STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY: CHARACTERIZING LIKUD'S BEGIN AS "TOTALLY UN-  
PREDICTABLE," NABLUS' MAYOR FORSEES A DETERIORATION IN  
ISRAELI JEWS' RELATIONS WITH THEIR ARAB NEIGHBORS. ISRAELI  
POLICY WILL REMAIN "EXPANSIONIST" HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER,  
THE WORLD IS NO LONGER INDIFFERENT. MUNICIPAL - MILGOV  
RELATIONS BAD. THE PUBLIC MOOD HAS BEEN BOUYED BY PRE-  
SIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS, BUT PESSIMISM IS DEEP-ROOTED.  
END SUMMARY.

2. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION JUNE 1 IN NABLUS, MAYOR SHAKA'  
ANALYSED THE RESULTS OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS AS FOLLOWS:  
MODERATES (SHELLI, CIVIL RIGHTS) LOST GROUND EVIDENCING THE  
WEAKNESS OF THE PEACE FORCE IN ISRAEL; THE EXTREME LEFT  
(RAKAH) GAINED SLIGHTLY PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ARAB VOTERS  
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WHO PREFERRED JEWISH COMMUNISTS OVER CO-OPTED ARABS; AND THE  
EXTREME RIGHT (LIKUD) GAINED A GREAT DEAL WHICH MEANS NEW  
FACES BUT NO REAL CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN  
"RACIST AND EXPANSIONIST" FOR 30 YEARS. THE POLARIZATION OF  
THE ISRAELI ELECTORATE FOREBODES INCREASED ARAB-JEWISH CON-  
FLICT WITHIN ISRAEL WHILE THE SURFACING OF AN OVERT EXPANSION-

IST POLICY COMES AT A TIME WHEN A PREVIOUSLY INDIFFERENT WORLD IS TAKING MORE AND MORE INTEREST IN THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

3. SHAKA' CHARACTERIZED BEGIN HIMSELF AS "TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE." ALTHOUGH HE FORESAW INCREASED PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE OCCUPIED AND THE OCCUPIER, THE MAYOR THOUGHT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT POLICY BEGIN WOULD SET. HE SUSPECTED HOWEVER THAT RECENT BANS ON TRAVEL BY MAYORS ABROAD MIGHT BE A FORETASTE OF MORE RESTRICTIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE MAYOR, PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS HAVE AROUSED HOPE ON THE WEST BANK. YET, THE PEOPLE CANNOT EASILY SHAKE OFF LONG YEARS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND ARE WAITING TO SEE IF THERE WILL BE ANY PRACTICAL RESULTS. PERSONALLY, THE MAYOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AMERICA'S CONCERN FOR THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE INCLUDING THOSE IN THE CAMPS (OUTSIDE THE WEST BANK) AND THOSE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

5. THE CONGEN ASSURED THE MAYOR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDED TO PURSUE ITS PEACE EFFORTS THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NEW ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER, FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THE REGION BY SECRETARY VANCE AND, HOPEFULLY, NEGOTIATIONS LATER AT GENEVA. PEACE, THE CONGEN NOTED, WAS VERY MUCH IN AMERICA'S OWN INTERESTS.

6. SHAKA' NOTED THAT THE MILGOV HAS DENIED APPROVAL FOR NABLUS' NEW ELECTRICAL GENERATOR WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FUNDED

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BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NABULSIS IN RIYADH. ON ITS PART, THE MUNICIPALITY HAS REFUSED AN OFFER TO EXTEND THE ISRAELI POWER GRID TO NABLUS. INSTEAD, ECONOMIES WILL BE MADE AND THE REQUEST RENEWED. THE CITY'S APPROXIMATELY \$20 MILLION DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS NOW PENDING APPROVAL BY THE MILGOV. IF AN WHEN PROJECTS ARE APPROVED AND HE IS PERMITTED, THE MAYOR WILL HEAD A DELEGATION TO NABLUS' TWIN CITY KUWAIT.

7. COMMENT: MAYOR SHAKA' APPEARED CALM, AS USUAL, BUT UNUSUALLY CHEERFUL AND WARM TOWARDS AMERICANS. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING HE THOUGH CONTACTS WITH THE CONSULATE WERE USEFUL AND EXPRESSED A HOPE THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE.

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## Message Attributes

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